THE HORRID SIN OF Man-Catching.

The SECOND PART.

Or Further

Discoveries and *Arguments* to prove,

That there is no

PROTESTANT-PLOT;

And that the Design of Casting a Plot upon them, by the Suborned *Man-Catchers*, was Antecedent to the first Discovery of the

POPISH-PLOT.

Together with some further *Discoveries* concerning *M. BOOTH.*

Humbly Dedicated to the Right Honourable, the EARL of *SHAFTSBURY.*

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To the Right Honourable,

ANTHONY,

EARL of SHAFTSBURY.

My Lord,

SO Ancient is the Custome of Dedicating Books to Persons of the greatest Worth and Eminence, whose shining Vertues display themselves with so much Illustrious Beauty, that like the radiant Beams of the Sun, they forceably Attract the Admiring Eyes of all Men, and create in them a Desire of having their Names found in the Frontispiece of their Books; that we find it practised even by some of the Inspired Penmen of the Sacred Scriptures; for St. Luke *Dedicates his History of the Life and Actions of our Blessed Saviour, and that of the* Acts of the Apostles, *to the most Excellent* Theophilus.

Your Lordship *being one of those few that have adventured to stem the Stream, and presumed to be Virtuous, when to be Wicked and Debauch'd is in Fashion; And that dare to be*

A *Loyal,*

Loyal, when to be so, is the way to be accounted Disloyal, and that dare Oppose the Ambitious Designs of a Malitious and Bloody Party; Together with your Lordship's *having Suffered so deeply by these Shams, is all the Apology I shall make for presuming to lay these Lines at your* Lordship's *Feet.*

The Malice of your Enemies shall serve as a File to set off the Glory and Lustre of your Lordship's *Loyalty, and your Name shall Live when theirs is Dead, and shine in Splendour, when theirs, like a Blaze, is gone out in a Snuff; the remembrance of your Name shall be as the smell of a pleasant Field, or the delightful fragrancy which comes from a Garden of Flowers, when the remembrance of theirs shall be nauseous and offensive.*

As the mighty Artaxerxes *accepted a Cup of Water from the hand of a Peasant, so your* Lordship *will shew how great a Master you are in the Art of Condescention, by Accepting these poor Indeavours of, my* Lord,

Your *Lordship's* most

Humble and Devoted Servant,

T. S.

THE HORRID SIN OF Man-Catching.

The SECOND PART.

IN such a shamming Age as this is, wherein shamming is become a Trade or Science, and the Workmen so Ingenious, that no sooner is one Sham discover'd but a new one is contrived to sham that, so that for these last three years there hath been nothing but sham upon sham, or rather one continued sham in several disguises; it will not be amiss to Collect and gather together all those several Shams which have been carried on by the *Papists* since the Plot, wherein they have had a double aim; the first, to stifle the Noise of their own Plot; the second, to sham one upon the *Protestants*; thereby hoping to destroy a considerable number of those by their second, which they missed the destroying by their first Plot.

The first Sham we find took air, was immediately upon the first discovery of the Plot, by Mr. *Everard*, whereby they so ordered the matter, that his discovery was rewarded with the *Tower*, whither the Sham follows him, and he is solicited to lay a Plot upon the *Protestants*; even so early was the Design laid to carry a Plot upon the *Protestants*. Sir *John Robinson* told him, those stories he had discovered, concerning the Plot, were but trifles,

and ſtarting-holes from the only point he had to urge againſt him. That unleſs he would confeſs other Matters againſt the Duke of *Monmouth*, he would Rack him the next day, and afterwards hang him.

The next Sham wherein they indeavoured to lay not only a Plot to Deſtroy the King; but (that which I cannot Write without horror) the real Murder of the beſt of Kings, our preſent Sovereign, whom God long preſerve, upon the *Presbyterians*, was their procuring ſome to ſwear againſt one *Clapool*, that he ſhould ſay, he would Kill the King; whereby they got him ſecured in the *Tower*, that ſo if God had permitted that which he hath graciouſly prevented, *viz.* the Murder of our dread Sovereign, they had preſently laid it on the *Presbyterians*; for ſay they, there is one in the *Tower* that threatned it.

The third Sham was as they would have the reſt, if they could, a bloody one, *viz.* The Murder of Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey*, which was done immediately upon the diſcovery of the Plot, by Dr. *Oates*, and then a curſed Report ſpread abroad by thoſe Murderers, that he had Murdered himſelf, wherein they had a double Deſign; firſt to ſtifle the further Proſecution and Diſcovery of the Helliſh Popiſh Plot, firſt by taking out of his Pocket, when they Murdered him, the Depoſitions of Dr. *Oates*. Secondly, By an infallible preventing his being a Witneſs againſt *Coleman*, at his Tryal; who, had as ſome ſay, diſcovered ſuch things to him, which they found means to prevent his diſcovering to any other, by promiſing to procure him a Pardon. Thirdly, By diſcouraging all Juſtices of the Peace and other Magiſtrates from daring to meddle with it any more, for fear of undergoing the like fate. Their ſecond Deſign in this Murder, was, by the cunning contrivance of it, to inſinuate, that Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey* had been an Ill

man,

man, and had Conspired with other *Protestants*, to Forge a Plot against the *Papists*, and hir'd Dr. *Oates*, to Swear it, thereby the better to bring about some cursed Contrivance of their own; but being dogged and haunted by the horror of a guilty Conscience, for unjustly laying such Horrid Crimes to the Charge of the poor innocent *Roman Catholicks*, was forc'd to become his own Executioner.

The fourth Sham was their indeavour to prevail with Captain *Bury* and Alderman *Brook*, to Swear the Plot upon the *Protestants*, for which purpose, they were to draw up in Writing what they would have them Swear, and promised 500 *l.* for their Reward. Now although these great Offers were not imbraced by these men, yet since they escap'd so well without Punishment, they resolved to offer them to all with whom they had the least hopes to prevail, until some or other would adventure to purchase this Gold at the price of Blood.

The fifth Sham, was my Lord Treasurer's taking *Bedloe* into his Closet, and by great Offers, tempting him to withdraw his Evidence concerning the *Popish Plot*.

The sixth Sham, was that great Attempt of *Reading* to Corrupt Mr. *Bedloe*, by the offer of an Estate, to relinquish his Testimony as to the Lords in the *Tower*.

The seventh Sham, was that Traiterous Libel, call'd the *Compendium*, contrived by the *Jesuits*, to sham the Plot, by relating the Circumstances of the Tryals with so much brevity and partiality, that they leave out the most material things upon which the strength of the Evidence lay.

The eighth Sham, was a Libel, called, *The History of the Plot*, by *Roger L'Estrange*, together with his further Discovery, wherein he labours hard at it, to shuffle in something in proof of the pretended *Presbyterian* Plot, and to stifle the *Popish* Plot, by pretending to a further Discovery of it.

The

The ninth Sham, was the sending abroad whole Regiments of Pamphlets (for you must know a great part of their shamming Talent lies in Pamphletting) of divers natures, some seeming to clash one against another, and some to rail against the *Papists* and *Popish* Plotters, but yet all ingeniously fixed by the subtile contrivers to serve the great Design of shamming the *Popish*, and insinuating a *Presbyterian* Plot.

The tenth was that of *Knox*, *Lane*, and *Osborn*, being a subtile Contrivance, managed by the joynt consent of the Lords in the *Tower*, as appears by Mr. *Dangerfeild*'s Narrative, wherein they were to prove, 1. A Contrivance between Mr. *Bedloe* and Dr. *Oates*, to Charge the Earl of *Danby* with Treason; 2. To Charge Dr. *Oates* with Sodomy; in both which they indeavoured to fustle the Plot; first by charging both *Oates* and *Bedloe* with Perjury in swearing falsly against the Lord Treasurer; and so, by consequence, all they had Sworn against others was false too. 2. If they fail'd in this, yet if they could prove the Sodomy, they would thereby render him such a profligate Wretch, that his Testimony was not to be credited.

The eleventh Sham, was that commonly called the *Meal-Tub Plot*, which because it seems to be the very same Sham with that which is now on foot, and is so hugg'd by some, only the persons who Act this Tragi-Comedy, some of them are changed, but the Master Contrivers and the Design of the Play is the same; therefore I shall be the longer upon it.

About the later end of *March*, 1679. One Mrs. *White*, a Prisoner in *Newgate*, and one who had been Convicted, was releas'd out of Prison, by Mrs. *Cellier*, after which she came several times to visit Mr. *Dangerfeild*, then likewise a Prisoner there, whereby she learned, that he was a *Roman Catholick*; and Mrs. *Cellier* inquiring of her

bet about the Prisoners in *Newgate*, if it were not possible to find out a man of Courage amongst them, and one who would reform? upon which she gave such a high Character of Mr. *Dangerfield*, that she immediately, supposing him a man fit for their purpose, gives him a visit, and after some short discourse of *Newgate*-Affairs, acquainted him, that she had a Business of great Concern for him to do, which if he would undertake, she would procure his Liberty, and a great Reward; in a word, she would make his Fortune; which he undertaking, she got him discharged. The first thing they imploy him about, was to find out some way to Invalidate the Testimony of Mr. *Bedloe*, by the means of one *Stronde*, a Prisoner in the *Kings-Bench* (as he was likewise, for he was no sooner out of *Newgate*, but he was Arrested and carried to the *Counter* for Debt, whence he was removed to the *Kings Bench*;) but this not succeeding to their wish, they got him out, however he was in the Gallery at *Powis-house*, by the Lady *Powis*, thanked and praised for his diligence about *Stroud*'s business; promising upon her Honour, that she would for his faithfulness make his Fortune, provided he would undertake the Management of other Business she had to do; he promising he would, she gave him a long and strict Charge; first, to be stedfast in the Principles of his Religion: secondly, to go once a Week to Mr. *Monson*, to Confession, which he promised to do; this was about the 6th. of *June*, 1679. and because all things were not ready, and they were loth to lose time, they imployed him for the present in getting out five or six Priests, that lay in the *Gate-house*; two or three whereof he got out: then he carried a Letter from the Countess of *Powis* to the Earl of *Castlemain*; upon the receiving and perusing this Letter, my Lord received him very kindly, promising to make his Fortune, if he would use his indeavours

deavours to support the *Catholick Cause*, as he should be directed. Then his Lordship writ a Letter to the Countess, in Answer to that which he brought from her, which he sent by him, and he delivered it to the Countess, who calling Mrs. *Cellier* to her, opened it, and read it in Mr. *Dangerfeild*'s presence; the Contents whereof was to this purpose:

Madam, *Just now I received yours, and will meet you at the* Tower, *to Morrow, at Ten a Clock: but this Fellow I like well, and though he be no Scholar, yet he may serve to Instruct the Youths, according as he shall be directed; and in so doing, I shall be eased of much suspicion*, &c.

By the Youths, you must understand the St. *Omer*'s Witnesses, who were lodged at Mrs. *Cellier*'s House, and were Instructed once in two days by *Castlemain*, all the time of their being in Town; yet some of them wanted their Lessons at the time of the Tryal of the five *Jesuits* at the *Old Bayly*, and therefore were again Instructed; yet blockheads that they were, they did not acquit themselves so well as was hop'd they would. Then the Countess advised Mr. *Dangerfeild* to burn all Papers whatsoever, after he had perused them; which he did, even to the very last, otherwise he had been able to have proved all he charges them with, by their own hand-writing. Shortly after this, Mr. *Dangerfeild* suspecting that Mrs. *Cellier*'s Maid took more notice of Affairs than was necessary, he told the Countess, he did not like her; so the Countess advised Mrs. *Cellier*, to turn her away, and take a Boy in her room, who would be more convevenient for carrying Letters; which was presently done. Then the Countess of *Powis* sent him with a Letter, to one Mrs. *Jane*, (as she called him) at one Mr. *Webs*, at *Peterley*, in *Buckinghamshire*, and confer with her about some weighty Business; this Mr. *Web* was himself present when the Countess put him upon going, and advi-

adviſed him, leſt the cauſe of his going ſhould be diſcovered, to bring his Son-in-law with him when he came back; ſaying, he had deſigned to ſend him to *France* long ſince, and that this would not only be a good Excuſe for him, but very convenient for his Journey alſo: then the Counteſs did order one of the Grooms, to hire a Horſe for him, not that her Ladyſhip wanted Horſes, but leſt it ſhould be known that ſhe ſent him, and ſo he ſhould be diſcovered; then Mr. *Web* adviſed him to put the Pacquet he was to carry into the Saddle-skirts, that ſo if he were taken, the Horſe being a Hackney, he might come off, by denying the thing. When he came to *Peterley*, he delivered the Letter to Mrs. *Web* from her husband; which as ſoon as ſhe had read, ſhe deſired him to follow her, which he did through divers Rooms, and up and down ſeveral pair of Stairs, till ſhe brought him into a Chamber, where ſhe bid him ſit down, ſaying, ſhe would preſently ſend the Lady to him, but inſtead of a Woman, ſhe ſent in a Man, (a Popiſh Prieſt) who after greeting, acquainted him, that for the ſecurity of his perſon theſe dangerous times, he was forc'd to retire there, and uſe the Name of Mrs. *Jane*: then he told him, he muſt preſently Confeſs, and receive the Sacrament, to be true to the Cauſe. He told him he had been drinking on the Road, and was not in a condition, and pray'd it might be deferr'd till the Morrow: but, he told him, that muſt not be; he was well enough, and muſt do it then, for he was to be gone early in the Morning, which when he had done, he took his leave, till the Morrow. When being ready to come away, Mrs. *Web* carried him to Mrs. *Jane*'s Chamber, and left them together. Then he told Mr. *Dangerfeild*, he had ſate up all Night to Anſwer thoſe Letters; *and that he would now conſider by what Method to proceed in the Plot againſt the* Presbyterians, *and that the ground-work of the whole thing was among*

those Papers, which he was to bring to London. When he came to *London*, the Countess, and Mrs. *Cellier*, told him, they were under great fear, lest the Papers should have been discover'd, and when he had deliver'd the Papers to the Countess, she opened and overlook'd them all, but took one, and read it to him, which was to this effect: (*viz.*) *Good store of Pamphlets must be writ, and spread about the Town against the* Presbyterians; *persons must be imployed to go to* Coffee-Houses, *and rail against the* Presbyterians, *and if they meet with any that offer to contend, matter of Treason, or some such thing may easily be laid to their charge, to have them secured; but there must be many persons imployed in this work, and it will be great prudence, not to let them know one another, and to let none of them know more than his own part: he blamed them likewise, for letting Mr.* Dangerfield *know so much as he did: but, said he, I have bound him fast enough; and besides that, I have a better opinion of him than I had of the other* (meaning *Gifford the Priest.*) *These are the People that must do the work, and you let them lie in Prisons and starve; which makes me wonder at your great negligence in so considerable an Affair*, &c. The rest were conceal'd from him, and presently sent to the Lords in the *Tower*, and afterwards to Mr. *Nevel*, to peruse and alter, as he thought fit; for he was the chief Pen-man, and did all that sort of drudgery for a long time, till Mr. *Dangerfeild* relieved him; first, by Transcribing divers Papers after him: secondly, by setting up for himself, in scribling of Pamphlets, to further the Cause. By this time the Tryal of the five Jesuits came on, and Mr. *Dangerfeild* not having time, as was designed, to Instruct the Witnesses, the Lord *Castlemain* continued in that imployment himself, and gave to some, who had short Memories, Breviates, or Lessons; others he advised with, sometimes at his own Lodgings, other times at *Powis-house*, and sometimes

at

at Mrs. *Cellier's*; this was as common among the Youth's, as going to School, and sometimes when they had been scanning over their Parts, and mistook, they would presently cry, Oh, I am out, I must go to my Lord *Castlemain*, to be Instructed again. Then was Mr. *Dangerfeild* ordered to Attend on the Lord *Castlemain* at the Sessions held at the *Old-Bayly*, the 13*th*. and 14*th*. of *June*; and the said Lord desired him to take care of the Youths, and keep them together, lest the Rabble, out of inveterate hatred should offer them any Injury. Then he was ordered to get into Court, and take Notes of the Tryals; and when the Tryals were over, the Lady *Powis* read them, and then sent him to her Lord, to the *Tower*, to whom he shewed the little imperfect Remarks he had taken: his Lordship seemed to like them well; and, to incourage him to be Industrious in other Business, commended him highly for this, and gave him far better incouragement than ever he had from his Lady, or any body else, and promised, upon his Honour, to make his Fortune, if he would be rul'd. Then the Lord *Powis* sent him to the Lord *Bellasis*, and the other three Lords, to shew them his Notes, or rather himself; he shewed them to all those Lords; and they all desired, they might be Printed, and gave Money towards it; one a *Guinea*, another Fifty Shillings, one half a *Guinea*, another Fifteen or Sixteen Shillings: when he returned to my Lord *Powis*, he told him what the other Lords had done, then he also contributed to it, and told him, the Lord *Castlemain* should do the like; at the same time he told him, that some had been imployed by them, to take the whole Tryals, which was to be Printed by one *Turner*, a *Popish Bookseller* in *Holborn*, and ordered him, to carry his Notes to be compared with his, and one intire Relation, to be composed of the whole, which was the *Compendium*. The Lord *Arundel*, laying his hand upon his head,

promised he should be well rewarded for all his diligence; and the Lord *Powis* asked, *Whether he had a faculty of writing abusively, and like a Satyrist; and was Master of such a Style as would look well in Print?* for, says he, *he, that Sir Nevel is so very dilatory, it is not to be indured; therefore if you dare undertake the Writing some sound Pamphlets, it might be of great use.* To which he answered, He would do his best. Then the Lord *Powis* told him, Mrs. *Cellier* should be allowed Ten Shillings *per* Week, to diet him, and his Lordship would allow him Three Pound *per* Week for his Expences in Business; and whatever more should happen, he should put it in a Bill, and send it to his Lordship, and it should be forthwith paid; all which was done as long as he served them. About the 18th of *June*, the Countess sent him with a Letter to the Lady *Yates* Lodgings, in *Scotland-yard*; who was pleased to say, She liked him very well, and gave him two *Guinea's*; and demanded, If he durst undertake a desperate Enterprize? he said, Yes. Then she Wrote a Letter to the Countess, and gave it him, to carry to her. Then they imployed him to get *Knox* and *Lane* out of Prison; which he found hard to do, but in the mean time he got Pen, Ink, and Paper, to be conveyed to them, upon which *Lane* writ a Letter to this purpose:

I will die before I will Comply with that Villain Oates; *and if any good People will work my liberty, I will do the* Catholicks *the greatest Service imaginable, by Discovering what I know of* Oates. *This is from the bottom of my heart, and what I will die with. So help me God.*

When the Countess read this Letter, she was transported with Joy, saying, *Has God given us this unexpected help? well, we will use it to the best Advantage.* And the pious Countess was the greater part of that day on her knees,

knees, to render Thanks to God for this new ſtrength ſhe ſuppoſed God had been pleaſed to bleſs their Cauſe with. (Oh horrid Prophanneſs, to make God the Author of Perjury!) About the 14th. of *July* he was ſent for by their Lordſhips to the *Tower*, where he received Orders to ſend *Lane* out of the way. Soon after this the Lords ordered him, by Mrs. *Cellier* to go to a Coffee-houſe; accordingly he went every Night to *Farr's* Coffee-houſe, to inſinuate, that the Earl of *Danby* was privy to the Murder of Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey*; that he took part with the *Preſbyterians*, and was confederate with them, to ruin the *Roman Catholicks*; and ſuch like ſtuff. Then the Lady *Powis* ſent him a great number of Pamphlets; among which was the *Danby Reflections*; and ordered he ſhould diſperſe them into all parts; which he did; ſome into the Country, to the Gentry there; others to little petty Coffee-houſes about Town, and ſome he drop'd in the Streets, and in all Houſes, where he could, ſo that he had like to have drop'd into *Newgate* again, for doing ſuch a Trick in an Eminent Citizen's houſe, which made him more cautious. Then the Lord *Powis* ordered him to attend on *Dormer*, a reputed Prieſt, and one that Writ Pamphlets, and frequented Coffee-houſes, to inſinuate a *Preſbyterian* Plot. His Lordſhip alſo ordered him to Converſe with one *Turner*, his Lordſhip's Prieſt, Mr. *Munſon*, Mr. *Remeſh*, and *Nevel*, and to follow their Directions in all things; then *Nevel* ſent him divers Papers, Pamphlets, and Letters, to Tranſcribe; among which were 40 Liſts of Names, each Liſt containing about 800 Names; at another time he received from *Nevel* 27 Letters, moſt of them written with *Nevel's* own hand, to Tranſcribe with all ſpeed, and at the ſame time *Nevel* ſent as many more to the *Tower*, by Mrs. *Ayty*. Some of them Mr. *Dangerfeild* had to Tranſcribe were as follows:

Sir,

Sir, Letter I. London.

OUr Buſineſs goes on very well, and I hope yours does the ſame in the Country: I am Informed that Commiſſions will ſpeedily be Iſſued out: and it is ſaid, there is ſome alteration among our people. The ſecond Letter; *Gentlemen, My heart is good, but the body is not of ſtrength enough to do you ſervice; but I doubt not but my Prayers, for your good ſucceſs, may be as ſerviceable and prevalent as my perſon, were it again in its prime,* &c. To ſuch like purpoſes were the reſt.

Mr. *Dowdwel* and Mrs. *Ayry* uſed to carry ſuch Papers and Letters as concerned the Deſign, to the *Gate-houſe*, and other Priſons about Town, to have the Advice of, and Conſent of the Prieſts and *Roman Catholicks* there; the Lord *Powis* (as Mrs. *Gellier* told Mr. *Dangerfeild*) refuſed to meddle in the thing, unleſs it were generally approv'd of, as it was ſoon after; for all that either ſaw or heard of it, agreed in opinion, that it was a very ſound Contrivance. And perſons were to be imployed to carry theſe Letters and other Papers into all parts of *England*, and ſome way or other found to lodge them in the houſes of ſuch as were the moſt eminent of the *Presbyterian* Party: Then others were to obtain Warrants upon other pretences, to ſearch their Houſes, and get the Perſons committed, in whoſe Houſes they were found: this they hop'd would occaſion ſo much confuſion throughout the Nation, that at leaſt every one would be glad to ſave himſelf, and the *Papiſts* come off upon the ſame terms, as others did. The next time Mr. *Dangerfeild* went to the *Tower*, my Lord *Powis* told him that one Mr. *Doyley* had ſeen or heard of him the laſt time he was with his Lordſhip, and had ſaid, in the hearing of one of his Lordſhip's Servants, That if ever he ſhould ſee him there again, he would have him ſecured; wherefore his Lordſhip adviſed him to come no more there, but return to

Powis-

Powis-house, and be careful of his business. Then he commanded him to go to Mr. *Turner*, his Lordship's Priest, and take Directions how to Write to Mr. *Holder* at *Brussels*, he being his R. H. Auditor: the Letters contain'd, an Account of the whole Design, and were Writ by the Countesses own hand, most earnestly desiring his good advice, as being unwilling to do any thing without it, therefore prayed his speedy Answer. This Packet was made up by Mr. *Turner*, and Superscribed by Mr. *Dangerfeild*, by *Turner*'s directions; *For Mr.* Tho. Holder, *at Monsieur* Keneydays, *Secretary to the* English *Resident in* Brussels. In one of which Letters, *they desired Mr.* Holder, *to imploy some ingenious person there, to Cut and Ingrave the Impressions of divers Coats of Arms*; the Patterns whereof had been taken in Wax, and were sent over inclosed in the same Letters, being fastned with other Wax to the Margent of it. Some time after, the Countess having received an Answer to this Packet, shewed Mr. *Dangerfeild* a Letter to this purpose:

If you had taken this course sooner, much Innocent Blood might have been saved; but I doubt 'tis now too late; I fear the St. Omer's *Witnesses being so baffled, as I hear they were, has much blasted our Design; but yet, to my power, I will assist, and do advise you to go on.*

Letters to the same purpose came at the same time to Mrs. *Cellier*, which she shewed to Mr. *Dangerfeild*, highly applauding this Gentleman, for his great Wit and Courage, saying, If it had not been for him the Lords in the *Tower* had not been now alive. Then my Lord *Powis*, notwithstanding his advising Mr. *Dangerfeild* to come there no more, sent for him, to come thither to him forthwith, but disguised; and when he came there, he found my Lord *Arundel* with my Lord *Powis*; and after much other Discourse, my Lord *Arundel* demanded of him, If he would do any thing to make his Fortune? he answered,

Yes;

Yes; (although he thought he had done enough to do that already) well then, Will you venter to Kill the King, for a good Reward? At that Mr. *Dangerfeild* being amazed, his Countenance changing, he replyed, My Lord, I suppose your Lordship is but in jest. No, said he, I am in earnest; and repeated his Question: he answered, That to serve them, he was willing to be the death of any man whatsoever, but the King and his Royal Highness: but still he press'd it the third time; then Mr. *Dangerfeild* apprehending his Life in danger, if he should absolutely refuse it, desir'd time to consider of it. Then my Lord *Powis*, who was present all the time, said, No, no, my Lord *Arundel* does this only to try you: — And pray, my Lord *Arundel*, said he, What is it worth, what would you give him for doing it? 'Tis worth, said the Lord *Arundel*, 2000 *l.* No more, said my Lord *Powis*? Pish, away; If he will kill my Lord *Shaftsbury*, he shall have 500 *l.* Mr. *Dangerfeild* inquired, Why they desir'd my Lord *Shaftsbury*'s life, and how it might be obtained? they both replied, it was easie to be done; for, said the Lord *Powis*, my Man *Wood* was there two nights since, upon pretence of an Errand; but his business was, to view the House, and observe what convenience there was for making an Escape, after the Fact done; that *Wood* found the thing so feasible, that after he came back, he said, he was very sorry he was not provided to have done it then; and the reason, said he, why we would be glad to have him out of the way, is, because we take for granted, if we were rid of him, (as they were of Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey*,) we should find it no hard matter, to bear down all the rest of our Opposers; with much persuasion he promised to undertake the Murder of the Earl of *Shaftsbury*; upon which my Lord *Powis* gave him Ten *Guinea's* in earnest. The next day Mr. *Dangerfeild* went

went to wait on my Lord *Caſtlemain*, who being Writing the *Compendium*, roſe up in a haſty poſture, and caſting an angry look upon Mr. *Dangerfeild*, ſaid, Why were you ſo unwilling to do that which you were taken out of Priſon for; my Lord being in this paſſion, he preſently went down ſtairs, and returned to Mrs. *Cellier*, who adviſed him to go to Mr. *Sharp*, the Prieſt at *Wild-houſe*; (for then his Kettle had more need of ſcouring than ever) the next Morning he went, and Confeſs'd, and received the Sacrament; which when he had done, he offered to come away, but *Sharp*, who it ſeems had been informed of his refuſing to kill the King, would not ſuffer him to depart ſo, but told him he ought to do Penance, for refuſing to ſerve God in what the Scripture taught him was his Duty: he deſired to know, whether the Scriptures taught him any ſuch thing, as to kill the King? he anſwered (like a Jeſuit) Yes, if he were firſt Excommunicated and Condemned by the Church, and that if he hoped to eſcape Damnation for his refuſal, he muſt undergo the Penance he then injoyned him. After this he was ſent to wait on *Gadbury*, who with an angry Countenance ſaid, I admire at your Ingratitude, that when you could not propoſe to your ſelf any poſſible way of getting out of Priſon, had not the Charity of good People relieved you, that you ſhould refuſe to kill the King; nay when you might have done it too without any manner of danger, as I find by Calculating your Nativity. After this Mr. *Dangerfeild* made two Attempts on my Lord *Shaftsbury*'s life, but was diſappointed in both. His next Imployment was to lodge thoſe Treaſonable Papers he had to get Tranſcribed, in Col. *Manſel*'s Chamber. Now I ſhall firſt prove, that this was really a Plot of the *Papiſts*, and not a contrivance of *Dangerfeild*'s. Secondly, I ſhall prove it to be the very

ſame with that wherewith my Lord *Shaftsbury*, my Lord *Howard* and others are now Charg'd, only ſome Circumſtances of time, place and perſons changed; and this I ſhall do by comparing one with t'other. *Firſt*, That it was a Popiſh Contrivance is plain, if you conſider Mrs. *Cellier*'s getting him firſt out of *Newgate*, then turn'd over from the *Counter* to the *Kings-bench*, then Compounding his Debts of 700 *l.* and getting him out thence, all which came to a large ſum of Mony, and therefore was not parted with for nothing; all this ſhe acknowledges her ſelf in that ſcurrilous Pamphlet of her's, called, *Malice defeated*. *Secondly*, It appears from the whole Contrivance of it, being found in her houſe, hid in her Meal-Tub, which ſhe acknowledged before the Council. *Thirdly*, It appears by their getting his Nativity Calculated by *Gadbury*, which *Celliers* and *Gadbury* both acknowledged. *Fourthly*, It appears by the great familiarity between my Lady *Powis* and him, ſhe acknowledging ſhe had ſeen him ſeveral times, and that once he told her of ſome Treaſonable Papers hid at *Weſtminſter*, and that the Secretary refuſed to grant him a Warrant to ſearch for them, unleſs he would make Affidavit; and that he was then adviſed to make uſe of the Cuſtom-houſe Officers to ſearch for them. *Fifthly*, It appears by his frequent viſiting the Lords in the *Tower*, as appears by Mr. *Dayly*'s taking notice of it, together with ſeveral other Circumſtances to confirm it. *Sixthly*, It appears by Mr. *Matthew Hopkinſon*'s acknowledging he Subſcribed a Liſt of Names, and a Letter, for Mr. *Dangerfeild*. *Seventhly*. It appears by the Depoſition of *William Woodman*, that he had known Mr. *Dangerfeild* at *Powis-houſe* about two Months, and that he had ſeen him and Mrs. *Cellier* Write together very often; That he carried a Pacquet of Letters from Mr. *Dangerfeild*, and Mrs. *Cellier*,

Her, to the Lady *Powis*, and that her Ladiſhip opened the Packquet, and read ſome of them, and gave ſome of them to him the ſaid *Woodman*, to carry to *Nevill* in the *Kings-bench*; and that he carried Letters divers times between Mrs. *Cellier*, Mr. *Dangerfeild*, and *Nevill*. *Eighthly*, It appears by Mr. *Dangerfeild*'s being introduc'd to the Lord *Peterborough*, by Mrs. *Cellier*, in order to the making a diſcovery of this pretended Plot, and by him to the Duke of *York*, and by the Duke to the King. *Ninthly*, It appears by the Lord *Peterborough*'s acknowledging, that Mrs. *Cellier* deſired him to get a Warrant to ſearch for theſe Papers, ſaying, That if he would do ſo, all would be diſcovered, and that ſhe deſired this Warrant might be obtained without the King's knowledge. *Tenthly*, It appears by the Examination of *Anne Blake*, Servant to *Cellier*, who Depoſed upon Oath, before the Council, That her Miſtris gave her two Parcels of Papers, deſiring her to lay them up where they might not be diſcovered, and that accordingly ſhe laid one Parcel behind the Pewter in the Kitchin, and hid the other in the Tub of Meal. *Laſtly*, It appears as plain as the Sun, by Mrs. *Celliers* ſending to him, after his being ſent to *Newgate*, 20 *Shillings* in Silver and a *Guinea*, and two Books of Account, telling him, by her Maid, That her Life was in his hands, and therefore deſired him to follow her Directions in a little Note ſhe ſent him, which was this: *I have ſaid, you were taken into my Houſe, to get in bad Debts. They'l bring me to* L. S. *They will ask me, Who incouraged me to go to him? I will ſay, You did: It cannot worſt you.* And in another little Paper thus: *I never change.*

And yet behold their Impudence, ſhe, before the Council, denied all this; but when the Notes were ſhown her, ſhe acknowledged it. Now, if they will be ſo im-

pudent, as to deny that which they knew could be prov'd againſt them by their own hand-writing, much more obſtinately may they deny thoſe things which they very well knew, the Papers that concerned them, were burned by Mr. *Dangerfeild*, according to their Directions. *Secondly*, I ſhall prove, That the Meal-Tub Plot is the very ſame with this wherewith my Lord *Shaftsbury*, *Howard*, and others are now charged with, which will appear, if you compare one with the other. Firſt, The forerunner or Forlorn-hope of that, was a numerous company of ſcurrilous Pamphlets, to prepare the way, by inſinuating, That there were ſome great Deſigns among the *Presbyterians*, to diſturb the Government, which was in a little time diſcovered to be a Popiſh Brat, and by the good Providence of God was delivered before its time. Juſt ſo it was in this Plot, a numerous company of Pamphlets were diſpers'd about, to inſinuate ſome great Deſigns among the *Presbyterians*, to overthrow the Government, ſuch as *Heraclitus*, the *Obſervator*, *Thompſon*'s *Intelligence*, *Aſhinton*'s blaſphemous Pamphlet, called *The Presbyterian Creed and Pater-noſter*, with abundance more. *Secondly*, It appears by their imploying the ſame perſons to diſperſe theſe Pamphlets, as were imployed to diſperſe the former, *viz. Thompſon*, *Hindmarſh*, &c. *Thirdly*, It appears to be the ſame Plot, becauſe the ſame perſons are charged to be in the one as were charged to be in the other, as you will find, if you look into the Liſt in *Dangerfeild*'s Narrative. *Fourthly*, It's the ſame Plot, as will appear by the Nature and frame of it, which is exactly like the other, for they were then charged with a Deſign, to raiſe an Army to overthrow the Government, and reduce it to a Common-wealth; ſo they are charged now with the ſame thing, only that pretended Plot was ſaid to be upon His

Majeſties

Majeſties being ſick at *Windſor*, and this upon the occaſion of his Majeſties going to *Oxford* to Meet the Parliament. *Fifthly* It appears to be forged in the ſame Shop, becauſe it was generally reported among the *Papiſts*, a Week before my Lord *Shaftsbury* was apprehended; that he would be taken up; nay, they had the impudence to Boaſt of it to ſome *Proteſtants*; For one Mr. *Pulford*, a Merchant, being at the Houſe of a *Papiſt*, a Week before my Lord was taken up, and having ſome Diſcourſe about the Plot, they ſaid, It would ſhortly appear to be a *Presbyterian* Plot, and my Lord *Shaftsbury* would ſpeedily be taken up for it. And one Mrs. *Care*, in the *Strand*, ſaid a Week before he was taken up, That my Lord *Shaftsbury* would ſhortly be taken up.

The next Sham-Plot is that of *Price*, and *Tasborough*; firſt to take off the Evidence of Mr. *Dugdale*, by promiſing him great Rewards and to procure him a Pardon for thoſe pretended Crimes wherewith he was falſly to accuſe himſelf, in ſwearing falſly againſt the *Papiſts*. *Secondly*, When they found he delaied them, and feared it was like to fare with them, as it did with *Redding*, they thought to be before-hand with him, and complain, that it was unjuſt, that the poor innocent *Roman Catholicks* ſhould ſuffer ſo hardly, by the Evidence of ſuch Wretches, as would turn like a Door upon its Hinges, forward and backward, and for a Sum of Money, would deny what they had ſworn, and run away when they had done: but Mr. *Dugdale* foreſeeing this, acquainted ſeveral ſufficient perſons, from time to time, with the whole Intreague, who atteſting it before the Council, the Sham came to nothing, and they were juſtly rewarded for their contrivance.

The next Sham was *Cellier*'s Pamphlet, called *Malice defeated*; whereby ſhe indeavoured (after ſhe got her Diſcharge,

Discharge, contrary to her own expectation, when she said her Life was in Mr. *Dangerfeild*'s hand, and this by an *Ignoramus* which we never heard of in *Heraclitus*, the *Observator*, or *Thompson*'s Intelligence) indeavoured to persuade the World, that there was nothing but Malice in her Charge, or in the Popish Plot, but a meer Contrivance.

Another of their Shams was their sending several persons to the Houses of several *Nonconformists* in this City, to beg their Charitable Contribution, towards the Maintainance of Dr. *Oates*, and Mr. *Bedloe*, pretending the King's Allowance was too little, but they were every where rejected; and it's well they were, for otherwise, it's not to be doubted, but the *Presbyterians* Good Works would have been brought to prove them Evil Doers.

Their next Sham was, their perverting Mr. *Blood*, and prevailing with him to send a Treasonable Letter to Dr. *Oates*, and then ordering some to Search and Rummage the Doctor's Papers, hoping to find it there, and so to have proved him a Confederate with the *Presbyterians*: but the wary Doctor, considering how many Trepans and Tricks the *Papists* used to ruin him, wisely dispatch'd it away immediately to Sir *Joseph Williamson*, then Secretary of State and a Member of the long Parliament then sitting; which Letter Sir *Joseph Williamson* afterwards produced in Council. And when all this fail'd, then their next Sham was to send one *Lewis* to the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, to desire his Lordship would please to send by him to Dr. *Oates* some Directions of his own hand-writing, how to manage himself; but my Lord wisely sent this Decoy away with a flat Denial, well knowing, that malicious men may rack and stretch innocent words, till they make them speak a quite contrary thing.

There

Their next Sham was the prevailing with *Simſon Tongue*, to Swear that his Father, Dr. *Oates*, and Mr. *Bedloe*, with ſome perſons of quality, contrived the Popiſh Plot; for young *Tongue* frequenting the Houſe of Mrs. *Lane*, about *June*, 1680. a Woman, that ow'd Dr. *Oates* a good turn for the Juſtice done upon her Son, *John Lane*, upon the Doctor's account: She, with a Popiſh Woman that lay in her houſe, by many Intreaties, and great Promiſes, perſuaded him to Swear, that his Father, *Oates*, and *Bedloe*, with ſome others, contrived the Plot, and finding thoſe great Offers had wrought ſome good Inclinations in him, they ſend for one Captain *Ely*, who came and conferred with him about it, and the next day they had a ſecond Meeting about it, and then *Simſon* ſhews him a Paper, the purport whereof was, to invalidate the Evidence of Dr. *Oates*, and that he and his Father had contrived the Popiſh Plot. This Writing being under *Tongue*'s own hand, was depoſited in *Ely*'s hands, who aſſured *Tongue*, he would carry it to his Majeſty. But this being but a ſingle Cord, was not ſtrong enough, wherefore they reſolve to twiſt it, by finding out a ſecond Witneſs. To this purpoſe they make an Eſſay upon one Mrs. *Fitz-Gerald*, a perſon at that time very low, both in Body and Purſe, and therefore, as they thought, the more likely to be Suborned, wherefore *Ely* ſent her a very loving Letter, Forty Shillings in Money, and great Promiſes of an able Phyſician, and other Kindneſſes for the future, but without the leaſt intimation of what Deſign he had upon her. But preſently after *Simſon* is ſent to treat with her, and he promiſes her God knows what, if ſhe would but Swear. In a ſhort time he gives her a ſecond Viſit, and brings with him Captain *Ely*, and one *Choqueux*, a Chyrurgion, and a *French* Papiſt, who was her Doctor, and very careful of her in her

her ſickneſs. They would have her Swear, there was no Plot, but what Dr. *Tongue*, *Oates*, and *Bedloe*, had made out of their own heads; ſhe told them, ſhe knew nothing of that matter: Yes, quoth *Simſon*, you do, and I have told the King of it at *Windſor*, and he is very deſirous to ſee you; and ſince you are ſo weak, that you cannot go to him, he will come to you ſomewhere hereabout, in a diſguiſe. But ſhe anſwered, 'Tis a folly to bring the King to me, for I know him not, and for that reaſon, if I had any thing to ſay, I would not be Trepan'd to diſcover it. When all this would not do, they indeavoured to Suborn one *Iſaac Cooper*, to Swear it, who if they could have gotten him to Swear, would have been the more credited, becauſe he was Dr. *Tongue*'s Clerk, but he was ſo honeſt, that notwithſtanding their large Promiſes, and noble Treats, he told them he had nothing to declare. This put them to a ſtand, but plucking up their Spirits, they reſolve that young *Tongue* ſhall reveal the whole buſineſs to the King: but now he begins to boggle, for fear his Father ſhould be hang'd, but *Ely* aſſured him, they would procure a Pardon for him. He being eaſily ſatisfied with this, the fore-mentioned Paper was diſpatch'd to his Majeſty, inclos'd in a Letter, wherein he promiſes to make great Diſcoveries, and earneſtly ſolicites for his Majeſties Protection. And in another Letter to his Majeſty, dated *Aug.* 8. 1680. He ſays, That his Father and Dr. *Oates* correſponded with my Lord *Wharton* and the Earls of *Eſſex* and *Shaftsbury*, and my Lord of *Eſſex*, was very forward in the *Iriſh* Plot, and ſent ſeveral Letters from *London* concerning it; That theſe Lords, the two Doctors convers'd with, and had aſſiſtance from, while they were forging the Plot. But unluckily it came at laſt to the ears of his Uncle, Captain *John Tongue*, who ſends for his hopeful Kinſman, and laying

laying before him the wickedneſs of his Project, *Simſon* falls on his knees, begs his pardon, and gave him a Recantation under his own hand, wherein was contained an account of the whole Roguery. And now one would think here ſhould be an end of the Comedy, and that the Man and his Cauſe were ſtranded for ever, ſo that no Engine could bring him off thoſe Flats: for if he ſhould be ſo impudent to proſecute it any more, his own hand wherewith he had Subſcribed his Recantation, would confront his Evidence. But ſo deſperately hardned are theſe wretches, that they will ſtorm all Difficulties, nay Impoſſibilities, and in ſpite of Fate purſue their curſed Reſolutions. This Recantation had, it ſeems, taken air, and flown to his Majeſties ears, which *Simſon* underſtanding, Addreſſes his Majeſty with two Letters, wherein, beſides other ſcandalous Lies againſt his Uncle, he tells his Majeſty, that his Uncle was very earneſt with him, to recant what he had given in concerning the Plot, and ſay he was hired to do it by the *Papiſts*, but yet he ſtood firm to his Tacklings, and did not give his Uncle a Recantation, tho' his Uncle pretended he had. *Simſon* after this, willing to get the Reward promiſed, applied himſelf firſt to Mrs. *Cellier*, then to truſty *Hodge*, who mainly applauded him, ſaying, he was upon a good Deſign, praying it might proſper. But being all brought before, and examined by the Council, ſo much of the Roguery was diſcovered, that *Simſon* was ſent to *Newgate*. *And* Roger L'Eſtrange *being willing to diſcover this Plot to the Nation, and to make the moſt of it, Printed a further Diſcovery of it, in a* Dialogue, *wherein he very elaborately proves it to be a Sham of the plaguy* Presbyterians, *and that it came out of their bottomleſs Belly to inſnare poor harmleſs* Hodge, *and the innocent* Roman Catholicks.

But by the way obſerve, that my Lord *Shaftsbury* was in this, as well as in all other of their Shams; And therefore I do Challenge thoſe that have any thing to ſay againſt the Legality of the Grand Juries Proceeding, to produce ſomething that looks like reaſon, why the Jury ſhould believe my Lord *Shaftsbury* to be more Guilty of this Plot, than he was of thoſe which were to have been Sworn againſt him by Mr. *Dangerfeild*, *Simſon Tongue*, and others, ſince the only difference that appears between them is, that they had the hap to be diſcovered before they were come to maturity, and this was not.

The next Sham we ſhall take notice of ſhall be that of *Booth* and *Bains*, as you find it in *Wilkinſon*'s Information. Captain *Henry Wilkinſon*, being by his good Service and bad Fortune, reduced to a low condition, and being now a Priſoner in the *Kings-bench* Priſon, one Mr. *Bains*, upon *Octob.* 8. 1681. came to him, and after many Expreſſions of kindneſs, told him, That he muſt needs know much of the Earl of *Shaftsbury*'s Deſigns againſt the King, and would do well to diſcover it to him; and he would help him to a Pardon, and a conſiderable Reward. But the Captain told him, he knew nothing againſt my Lord: *Bains* leaves him. But on the 11*th* of *October*, comes one Mr. *Booth*, who told him, if he would diſcover what he knew of the Earl of *Shaftsbury*'s Deſigns to ſet up a Common-wealth, he ſhould have 500 *l. per Annum* ſettled on him and his Heirs, or (if he liked that better) 1000 *l.* in ready Money; but the Captain refuſed that great Bribe, and returned the ſame Anſwer as he had done to *Bains*. But when they had broke the Ice, they would not be ſo put off, but the next day they ſet upon him again, and to great Promiſes, add great Treats; and when this fail'd, like

like the firſt Seducer, they ſet upon his Wife, intreating her to perſuade her Husband; but when this and many other Contrivances would not bring him to their Bow, they had him up to the King and Council, where *Booth* Swore High Treaſon againſt him, That he was to be Captain of a Troop of Horſe of Fifty, in this new Service againſt his Majeſty, and he the ſaid *Booth* was Liſted under him.

This *John Booth* is one that hath been Condemned for Clipping and Coining, beſides Murder; and about this time that he pretends he was Liſted under Captain *Wilkinſon*, it is very plain, that he was buſying himſelf about things of a different nature, not much for his credit; for being about that time to go with Captain *Wilkinſon* to *Carolina*, and being unwilling to go empty, he comes to one Mr. *Halford*, a Mercer, with a pretended Letter from the Lady *Ogle*, to Buy her ſeveral Rich flower'd Silks, and other Rich Things, to the value of between Two and Three Hundred Pounds, and to ſweeten him the more, brings Mr. *Halford*'s Brother with him, and tells him, that for his Brother's ſake he had a great kindneſs for him, and had rather he ſhould take his Money than another man, and told him, that he expected ſhortly to be Steward to the Duke of *Norfolk*, and that then he would do him great Kindneſſes. Mr. *Halford* replyed, Sir, I have not all theſe Goods you ſpeak of, but if you pleaſe, I will get them for you. Pray do, ſays *Booth*; accordingly the Goods were gotten: and at the time appointed, he came to look on them, and liked them well: But, Sir, ſaid Mr. *Halford*, theſe Goods comes to a great deal of Money, and I am but a young Beginner, and therefore cannot Truſt ſo much at once; but if you will have them, and Pay me ready Mony for them, you ſhall have them Cheaper than you will

Buy them any where elſe. Sir, ſaid he, I will come and Pay you ready Money for them, but never came near him again.

After the ſame manner he went to Mr. *John Ridgies*, an Upholſter, for ſeveral Rich Goods, but he alſo refuſing to Truſt him, he heard no more of his Chapman. Now it's more than probable, that the miſſing this Booty, he thought to get of Mr. *Halford*, and Mr. *Ridgies*, and it's like of ſome others, was the occaſion that he went not aboard according to his promiſe, to Captain *Wilkinſon*, for he thought it a vain thing, to go to *Carolina*, being thus unhappily diſappointed of his *Cargo*.

After this, being in great diſtreſs for a New Sute, he goes to a Tailor in *Field-lane*, and deſired him to make him a Suit, which he did, and carried it home to his Lodging, he lodging then at *Bains*'s, the Suit was tried on, and it pleaſed him wonderful well, Ay and 'twas mighty Cheap; But, ſaid *Booth*, I am very ſorry that I am diſappointed of Money I was to have received yeſterday, ſo that I cannot Pay you; but, pray Sir, be pleaſed to call within a day or two, and your Money ſhall be ready for you: but when he called for his Money, there was no ſuch Man, as *Booth*, Lodg'd there: and the poor man was really diſappointed of his Money; but at laſt he is informed, that he might ſpeak with his Son, at a Chamber in the *Temple*, whither he goes, and with ſome difficulty, gets to the ſpeech of young *Booth*, who told him, That truly he was aſhamed to ſee him, becauſe his Father had been diſappointed of Money, ſo that he could not Pay him; but, to tell you the truth, continued he, my Father is in the Countrey (although he was at that time a Priſoner in Mr. *Weaver*'s Houſe in the *Rules*) and ſince he went down, he did ſend up 5 *l.* for you, but a Friend of mine, being in great diſtreſs for Money, I lent it him, but you

ſhall

ſhall be ſure to have your Money very ſpeedily, which was all the ſatisfaction he could get.

But thoſe great Attempts, ſince the diſcovery of the Plot, to caſt a Plot on the *Presbyterians*, were not the firſt, but it begun much ſooner, *viz.* in the Year 1661. as we have an Account of it by Captain *Tarranton*: It was after this manner. There were ſeveral Letters forged, and delivered by Sir *John P*—— to one *Richard N*—— his Neighbour, to carry to one *Cole* of *Martly*, about four Miles from *Worceſter*, who according to Directions, delivered a Pacquet of Letters to one *Churne* of *Witchinford*; which Pacquet of Letters was carried by *Cole* and *Churne* unto Sir *John P*—— (from whom it firſt came.) And before him *Churne* makes *Affidavit*, That going early in the Morning to his Labour, he ſtruck his bill upon a Hedge, to cut a Thorne, and by and by, on the other ſide of the Hedge, he eſpi'd a *Scotch*-Pedlar, putting up Letters haſtily into his Pack, and being affrighted (as he ſuppos'd) he left that Packet behind in the Ditch, and went down a Lane leading to Col. *John Birch* his Houſe.

This Oath being made, and the Packet delivered, and opened, it preſently appeared, that there was a Conſpiracy on foot to ſtir up a Rebellion in the Kingdom, and to raiſe an Army for that purpoſe; and that Captain *Andrew Tarranton* was to Command a Party in thoſe Parts; for which purpoſe there were ſeveral Letters directed to him from ſome Miniſters, and others, particularly one from Mr. *Baxter*, intimating, that he had provided a conſiderable body of Men well Arm'd, which would be in readineſs againſt the time appointed. Another from Mr. *Sparry*, the then Miniſter of *Martly*, intimating that he had order'd him 500 *l.* which was lodg'd in a Friend's hand, and ſhould be ready for him whenever

ever he ſent for it, (but yet the perſon in whoſe hands it was, is not nam'd.) Several other Letters and Treaſonable Papers were pretended to be in that Packet; upon which the *Militia* of that County was raiſed, and the City of *Worceſter* was that Night filled with Horſe and Foot, and the next Morning, by Two of the Clock, an Officer with a Troop were ſent to apprehend Mr. *Tarranton*, and bring him to *Worceſter*, and the ſame day ſome Scores more were apprehended and ſent to ſeveral places of confinement; but after Ten days the Sham began to appear, ſo that the Trained Bands would continue no longer: And upon their departure the Deputy-Lieutenants diſcharged all the Priſoners, except Dr. *Jackſon*, Mr. *Sparry*, the two *Oſlands*, Capt. *Wells*, and *Tarranton*, who were ordered to be kept cloſe Priſoners in ſeveral Chambers of the *George Inn*, and the Trained Bands being gone home, the Clergy provided about 60 Foot-Souldiers, which they Arm'd and Paid, to Guard the Criminals that remain'd in Cuſtody; this was commonly called the *Clergy Band*, and whilſt they continued in Guard, one *Roger Waldern*, a poor Old Man, came to *Worceſter*, to enquire after the Welfare of Mr. *Henry Oſland*, his Miniſter, and ſpeaking with one of thoſe Souldiers, the Souldier liberally charged Mr. *Oſland* with being a Traytor, a Rebel, and a Plotter againſt the Government: He replied, Mr. *Oſland* was an honeſt and peaceable man, and he could never believe him to be guilty of Plotting againſt the Government. Upon this the Church-militant-man laid hold of him in great wrath, and carried him to the Court of Guard, where he was ty'd Neck and Heels together, and Charged with having a hand in this pretended *Presbyterian* Plot, threatned with ſevere Uſage, unleſs he would make a Confeſſion: all this the Old Man bore with patience, anſwering

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ing never a word, which ſo inraged this man in Authority, who Commanded the Guard, that he commanded lighted Matches to be put between his Fingers, and burnt them to the very Bone, thereby to force from him a Confeſſion of a *Presbyterian* Plot. And at the ſame time this Sham was carried on in ſeveral other Counties. For there came one Evening to the Houſe of Mr *Martin*, Town-Clark of *Oxford*, a Stranger with a Letter, who had no ſooner delivered it, but he withdrew, and went his way; when Mr. *Martin* had open'd and read the Letter, he prudently carried it immediately to the Mayor, for had he delayed it a day or two, it might have been found upon him, and then *Oxford* might have been as full of Plotters and Priſoners as *Worceſter* was. The Copy of this Memorable Letter is here inſerted, word for word.

Mr. Martin,

I *Pray you warn all theſe Men, to be all in their Arms, upon* Wedneſday *next, in the Night; you know already where they muſt meet. There will come into* Oxford *Two Hundred Men, all in their Arms: you know who doth Command them. Dr.* Greenwood *has ſent to Mr.* Combs *the Barber, to get his Party of* Scholars *ready that Night; and I have ſent to Mr.* Hickman, *to get his Men ready at the ſame time; and Dr.* Owen *has ſent to Mr.* Fogge, *to get his Men ready at the ſame time; and Dr.* Gawen *has ſent to Mr.* Duke, *the Barber, to get his Men ready at the ſame time; and I have ſent to Mr.* Corniſh, *to get his Men ready at the ſame time; and I have ſent to Mr.* Connaught, *to get his Men ready; and all the Scholars are to meet in Dr.* Rogers *Garden: And I pray ſend the* Blunderbuſſes *thither, for I intend to be there my ſelf. And I pray give the Bearer hereof Five Pound out of the Stock: And I*

pray

pray you remember me to the Six Men unnam'd. Five Counties are to riſe that Night, without fail: I need Write no more to you. The Word is, God is the Word; *and I pray tell them all ſo.*

In this Letter there was incloſed a Liſt of the Mens Names he was to warn, which were an Hundred and Ten in all. But by his prudent carrying this Letter and Liſt of Names to the Mayor, he ſpoiled the well laid Deſign, and it came to nothing in that County. And ſo it did at *Worceſter*, for the perſon who was imployed to carry the Packet of Sham-Letters from Sir *J. P.* to one *Cole* of *Martly*, acquaints his Brother, how he came by the ſaid Packet: His Brother, immediately upon this Diſcovery, repairs to Mrs. *Tarranton* and informs her of it. She goes to *Worceſter*, and, with ſome difficulty, got a Letter delivered to her Husband, wherein ſhe related the whole Matter. Mr. *Tarranton* being thus let into the knowledge of this malicious Deſign, ordered Six Actions, to be immediately entered againſt ſome of thoſe perſons that brought him to Priſon. At laſt he was brought before the Lord Lieutenant, and ſix of his Deputies; Mr. *Tarranton* deſired the doors might be ſet open, for his Witneſſes to come in. He prayed alſo, that he might have Pen, Ink, and Paper, and he would Write down the whole Matter, for Words might be wreſted to other Intents than they are ſpoken. This was a while debated, but being ſo reaſonable, it could not be denied. But no ſooner did Mr. *Tarranton* begin to Write, but the Lord Lieutenant, and Sir *J. P.* left the Room, and went down the back ſtairs, and after them followed all the Deputy Lieutenants, except Eſq; *Holt*, who told Mr. *Tarranton*, That he was ſorry with all his heart, to ſee ſuch things practiſed to the diſturbance of honeſt Men,

Men, and the diſhonour of the Government. Then Mr. *Tarranton* demanded, of the Marſhal what he had now to ſay to him further? He anſwered, All he had to ſay, was, to requeſt, That he would not trouble him, for holding him ſo long in reſtraint, for as much as he was a Poor Man, and had many Children, and did only follow the Orders of his Superiors: Mr. *Tarranton* told him, he did freely forgive him. Now although this Sham did not anſwer the deſire and expectation of the Contrivers in reference to the particular perſons that were accuſed, yet it did in general. For by this means they poſſeſs the King and Parliament, that it was abſolutely neceſſary to make ſome ſevere Law againſt this reſtleſs ſort of men, who not contented with the King's gracious Pardon, were always Plotting to diſturb the Government. And therefore when the Parliament met on the 20*th.* of *November*, 1661. the King makes a Speech wherein are theſe words:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I *Am ſorry to find that the general Temper and Affections of the Nation are not ſo well compoſed, as I hoped they would have been, after ſo ſignal Bleſſings of God Almighty upon us all, and after ſo great Indulgence and Condeſcenſions from me towards all Intereſts, there are many wicked Inſtruments ſtill as active as ever, who labour night and day to diſturb the Publick Peace, and to make all people Jealous of each other. It will be worthy of your Care and Vigilance, to provide proper Remedies for Diſeaſes of that kind; and if you find new Diſeaſes, you muſt ſtudy new Remedies. Let us not be diſcouraged; if we help one another, we ſhall, with God's bleſſing, maſter all our Difficulties.* (And a little further,) *You will find, whoever doth not love me, doth not you; and they who have no reverence for you, have little kindneſs for me.*

From which last passage, we may conclude, That they are none of the King's Friends; nor are they of his mind, who in Word or Writing, do cast Contempt on Parliaments.

I shall conclude this brief Discourse, with my hearty Desire and Prayer to God, That he would please to Bless the King, and preserve him from all his real Enemies, let them be called by what Name, or go under what Disguises soever, and grant him a long, happy, and a quiet Reign. And in order hereunto, blast, and confound the *Pope* and all his Adherents in *England*, as well Masqueraded, as open and professed *Papists*. *Amen*.

F I N I S.

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